

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02

DLOS-07 SWF-02 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SCI-06 CIEP-02

DRC-01 /153 W

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R 281421Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4843

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: PRIMIN ECEVIT TAKES TOUGHER PUBLIC LINE ON
RELATIONS WITH GREECE

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REF: ANKARA 5139

1. FOLLOWING APPARENT FAILURE OF GREEK-TURKISH PRIME MINISTERIAL TALKS AT BRUSSELS, PRIMIN ECEVIT HAS USED THREE OCCASIONS IN TWO DAYS TO STRIKE CONTRAST BETWEEN WHAT HE CHARACTERIZES AS TURKEY'S EFFORT TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY AND GREECE'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE.

A. IN LENGTHY PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE AT BRUSSELS JUNE 27, WHICH HEAVILY COVERED IN TURKISH PRESS, ECEVIT ASSERTED THAT "GREECE DOES NOT NOR CANNOT JOIN TURKEY IN ITS PEACEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO PROBLEMS". HE SAID TURKEY WOULD CONTINUE PROSPECTING FOR OIL IN AEGEAN BUT WOULD NOT FOLLOW "AGGRESSIVE POLICY, MILITARILY OR OTHERWISE". (FBIS KYRENIA M271801 GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE).

B. ON RETURN TO ANKARA, ECEVIT TOLD REPORTERS AT AIRPORT THAT "TURKEY'S PEACE-LOVING UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REGISTERED BEFORE THE EYES OF THE WHOLE WORLD". HE REITERATED HOPE OF AVOIDING WAR.

C. ON JUNE 8, IN LENGTHY SPEECH MAINLY DEVOTED TO OTHER SUBJECTS, AT EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS OF HIS REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), ECEVIT SAID HIS TALKS WITH GREEK PREMIER HAD PRODUCED ONE ACCOMPLISHMENT: "THE WORLD HAS UNDERSTOOD WHO IS PEACEFUL AND WHO IS NOT PEACEFUL." HE CHARGED GREEK GOVERNMENT WITH HAVING SOUGHT DOMESTIC SUPPORT BY PORTRAYING TURKEY AS AGGRESSOR.

2. COMMENT: ECEVIT IN HIS PREVIOUS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON AEGEAN DISPUTE WITH GREECE HAS REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING GREECE OR MAKING STATEMENTS THAT MIGHT STIR POPULAR FEELING ON ISSUE. LATEST STATEMENTS CLEARLY REFLECT WHAT HE HIMSELF CALLED HIS "DISMAY" OVER IMPASSE AT BRUSSELS AND SHOW AT LEAST A STRONG HINT OF PERSONAL RESENTMENT.

3. NOW THAT OFFER OF NEGOTIATION HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN, TURKS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROCEED WITH OIL PROSPECTING, AS ECEVIT TOLD PRESS, MAINLY AS MEANS TO ASSERT THEIR LOS CLAIM AND TO KEEP PRESSURE ON GREECE TO RECONSIDER OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS (SEE REFTEL). JUDGING BY TOUGHENING OF ECEVIT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE MAY ALSO SEE TURKISH GOVERNMENT LEADERS MORE WILLING TO PERMIT DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-GREEK FEELING, WHICH -- AGAIN AS ECEVIT HAS OBSERVED -- WOULD MAKE PROBLEM MORE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. MACOMBER

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